Repeated Feelers by LTTE for Ceasefire

1035. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LTTE has sent repeated feelers to the Indian Government for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has repeatedly urged the L.T.T.E. to hand over its arms, support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and join the political process. Once this is done, there can be a complete cessation of all hostilities

Pakistani Deal with France for the Supply of Sophisticated Computerised Radars

1036 SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports about the Pakistani deal with France for the supply of sophisticated computerised radars for air surveillance to be installed along our borders, if so, what is the truth behind it and what is the reaction of Government;

(b) how far it is likely to affect our capability; and

(c) what is the Government's information about the latest position about US response to Pak request for AWACS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government is aware that Pakistan is making efforts to obtain an integrated air traffic control system from a French firm. This system is expected to be utilised for approach control at the civilian airports in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. Pakistan is also engaged in integrating this system with the air defence network of the Pakistan Air Force.

(b) Adequate steps are being taken by us to meet any eventualities in this regard.

(c) Government is aware that the USA is giving serious consideration to Pakistan's urgent request to lease US surveillance aircraft to the Pakistan Air Force.

Export of arms by India

1037. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is a poor arms exporter in the world though India possesses one of the largest arms industries; and

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to manufacture more arms for exports since even small countries like Singapore and Sweden are capable of exporting huge quantity of arms to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) India is not an arms exporting country. Our Defence Production Units are primarily engaged in the production of arms to meet the requirements of our own Armed Forces. Export of arms has, as